An EXTRACT from the REPORT of the LORDS COMMITTEE of COUNCIL upon Queſtions referred to them by His MAJESTY's ORDER in COUNCIL, Dated the 1ſt Day of MARCH 1785, and received at YARMOUTH, the 11th of MARCH 1785,

Extracted and Printed in conſequence of an unanimous Reſolution of a general Meeting of the Corn Merchants of the Town of GREAT YARMOUTH, in NORFOLK, the 16th Day March 1785.

Great Britain

C O R N.

Privy Council

Meſſrs. *Claude Scott*, and *John Vickraſs Taylor*, } Corn Factors. Examined.

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Q. Have you read the Bill that paſſed in Ireland laſt Year, for regulating the Corn Trade of that Kingdom?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you apprehend that the Propoſal that is made in it, to admit Britiſh and Iriſh Grain and Flour to be imported into each Kingdom reſpectively, when the Prices are lower than thoſe at which a general Importation of ſuch Grain and Flour is admitted from Foreign Countries, will be for the Advantage or Diſadvantage of this Country?

A. Very much to the Advantage of this Country, becauſe the Iriſh more frequently want Grain and Flour from this Country than we do from that; and becauſe a partial Deficiency in our Crops may be made up by a ſufficient Supply from Ireland, when a general Supply from Foreign Countries might be too much, and might diſcourage Agriculture. The Iriſh having prohibited the Importation of Flour and Ground Corn from all Countries but Great Britain, for the Encouragement of their Mills, it might be a juſt Return to them to prohibit in like Manner the Importation of Flour and Ground Corn from any Country but Ireland; and this would likewiſe operate as an Encouragement to our Mills; we having Mills enough to ſupply the greateſt poſſible Demand for Flour.

The Committee then deſired theſe Gentlemen to prepare ſuch a Plan for admitting Iriſh Grain and Flour into this Country, as will correſpond with the Regulations made in Favour of Great Britain in the Bill paſſed laſt Seſſion in Ireland.—In Compliance thereto, Meſſrs. Scott and Taylor have made the following Return.

London, 22d February 1785.

May it pleaſe your Lordſhips,

In Obedience to your Lordſhips Command, we have turned our Attention to the Clauſes in the laſt Iriſh Corn Act; and in conſequence thereof, have the Honour to ſubmit to your Lordſhips, the incloſed Account, wherein we have ſtated the reſpective Prices, Weights, and Meaſures, which regulate the Importation of Corn, Flour, and Meal, into each Country, with the neceſſary Alterations for proportioning the Prices of England to thoſe of Ireland, as near as the different Weights and Meaſures uſed in each Country can be brought to correſpond with the Spirit of the ſaid Clauſes.

We have alſo preſumed to ſubjoin our Reaſons for the neceſſity of extending the Powers of the Act of the 21ſt of His preſent Majeſty, to aſcertain, with more Accuracy, the Average Prices of Grain; which will govern the Importation into all the Ports of this Kingdom by one general Rule, and thereby give proper Effect to the propoſed reciprocal Intercourſe with Ireland, in this Article of Commerce.

We have judged it unneceſſary to add any Obſervations reſpecting the Exportation, that being regulated in each Country by Prices and Bounties already nearly equal: The mode indeed of aſcertaining theſe Prices in England (except in the Port of London) is liable to much Abuſe; but as this will very ſoon be brought under the Conſideration of Parliament, in the Bill referred to, which is about to be preſented, we forbear to trouble your Lordſhips farther on the Subject.

We have the Honour to be,
Your Lordſhips
moſt obedient Servants,
CLAUDE SCOTT,
J. V. TAYLOR.

A COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Prices, Weights, and Meaſures, by which the IMPORTATION of CORN and GRAIN into GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND is regulated.

With a PLAN for the IMPORTATION of IRISH GRAIN into ENGLAND, On the Principles of the laſt Iriſh Corn Act.

Ireland admits Importation of Corn from all Foreign Parts, as well as from Great Britain, when the general Average Prices at Dublin, of the Six Weeks preceding the Quarter Seſſions, are as follows:

	s.	d.		lb.
Wheat	a 30		per Barrel	of 280
Rye	a 26		Do.	of 280
White Peaſe	a 30		Do.	of 280
Grey Do.	a 18	3	Do.	of 280
Beans	a 18	3	Do.	of 280
Barley and Malt	a 14	6	Do.	of 224
Oats	a 11		Do.	of 196

N. Ireland has prohibited the Importation of all Corn or Grain, ground into Meal or Flour, except from Great Britain.

Ireland propoſes to admit Britiſh Corn, ground or unground, from Great Britain, when the Prices are as under aſcertained, in like Manner, and on Condition, that Great Britain grants the like Preference to Iriſh Corn,

	s.	d.	
Wheat	a 27		per Barrel
Rye	a 23		Do.
White Peaſe	a 27		Do.
Grey Do.*	a 16	3	Do.
Beans	a 16	3	Do.
Barley (and Malt)	a 13	6	Do.
Oats	a 10		Do.

* Grey Peas not being an Article either of Food or Commerce in this Country, they are omitted in the Calculation.

N. B. Ireland having directed, that every Barrel of Wheat, Rye, Peaſe, and Beans, ſhall weigh 20 Stones, or 280 lb. the Quarter of all theſe Articles is taken, in the following Calculation, at the Medium Weight of Engliſh Wheat, viz. 456 lb. or 57 lb. per Buſhel; Barley at 392 lb. or 49 lb. per Buſhel; and Oats at 304 lb. or 38 lb. per Buſhel:

The Difference in Favour of Britiſh Corn, calculated at the Par of Exchange, is

		s.	d.			lb.
3	Iriſh per Barrel,	or 4	6	Engliſh, per Quarter,	of	456
3	—	or 4	6	—	of	456
2	—	or 3		—	of	456
1	—	or 1	7	—	of	392
1	—	or 1	5	—	of	304

England admits Importation of Corn, ground or unground, from all Foreign Parts, as well as from Ireland, when the Average Prices are aſcertained, at the Time of the Quarter Seſſions, to be as under:

	s.	
Wheat	at 48	per Quarter.
Rye	at 32	
Peaſe	at 32	
Beans	at 32	
Barley (and Malt)	at 24	
Oats	at 16	

N. B. England allows Corn or Flour to be exported to Ireland, whenever there is an Embargo on the Exportation from thence.

The Engliſh Ports ſhould therefore open to the Iriſh, according to the ſtrict Conſtruction of their Corn Act, at the Prices following; the Differences per Quarter above ſtated, being deducted from the eſtabliſhed Importation Prices:

	s.	d.	
Wheat	43	6	per Quarter.
Rye	27	6	
Peaſe	27	6	
Beans	29		
Barley (and Malt)	22	5	
Oats	14	7	

But as it appears inconſiſtent for England to allow an Importation of Grain, even from Ireland, below the Prices at which ſhe gives a Bounty on Exportation, and as Ireland has fixed the Importation of Britiſh Corn preciſely where the Bounties on Exportation ceaſe, it would be proper for England to act upon the ſame Principle, and by the ſame Rule:—In which Caſe, the Scale of Prices to regulate the Importation of Corn from Ireland, will ſtand thus:

	s.		
Wheat	a 44	Per Quarter	Subject to a Duty of 3 per Quarter on Grain, and 2d. per Cwt. upon Meal or Flour thereof, to correſpond with the Duties upon Importation into Ireland.
Rye	a 28		
Peaſe	a 28		
Beans	a 28		
Barley and Malt	a 22		
Oats	a 14		

As the Importation of Foreign Corn at the different Ports of this Kingdom, has been regulated by the Prices aſcertained at the Quarter Seſſions; and Experience having proved, that the Ports have opened for Admiſſion of Foreign Corn, when the real Market Prices were below the Import Limits, by falſe and imperfect Returns being made, either by Neglect or Deſign; the Parliament of 21ſt of His preſent Majeſty, paſſed an Act for fixing a more accurate Mode of aſcertaining ſaid Prices for the Ports of London, Eſſex, and Kent.—This Regulation has proved ſo ſalutary and effectual, that it would very much conduce to the Encouragement of Agriculiure, if the Powers and Regulations thereof were extended to all the Out-Ports. A Bill for that Purpoſe was brought into Parliament in 1783, read Twice, and printed:—It lay over for Conſideration 'till the next Seſſions, but Public Affairs that Seſſions, and the ſubſequent Diſſolution, prevented it's further Progreſs: It is now about to be renewed, and as Ireland has formed her laſt Corn Act upon the Model of that Bill, whereby her Ports are either all ſhut againſt Foreign Grain, or all open for the Admiſſion of it, according to the Prices aſcertained at Dublin; we think it a ſtrong Reaſon in Support of the Meaſure, and therefore preſume to recommend it.

LONDON, February 22d, 1785.

CLAUDE SCOTT.
J. V. TAYLOR.

THE REASONS

THAT have induced the Merchants of *Yarmouth* to print and diſperſe the aforeſaid Extracts are, That it was held in debate in the Honourable Houſe of Commons, on Friday the 11th inſt. on the part of Adminiſtration, "That there was nothing (touching the Iriſh Propo-"ſitions) which could affect the intereſt of any ſet of men which they could nor 'eer that time "have pointed out.—That the ſaid report of Council contained *all* the information neceſſary for "the Houſe to proceed upon, in the commercial regulations with Ireland.——That notice had "been ſent to all the principal mercantile and manufacturing towns in the kingdom, that the "Committee of Council were ſitting for the purpoſe of receiving information relative to a com-"mercial treaty with Ireland, and that *every ſpecies* of information was invited that could tend "to throw *any* light upon the ſubject.—That three weeks had elapſed and no grievances had "been ſtated,—no complaints had been made;—if therefore nothing ſhould appear in the courſe "of a few days, the fair preſumption is, that *the Propoſitions meet with general approbation.*

On the other hand it was remarked,—"That the Report *did not* contain ſuch information as "could warrant the Houſe to proceed in a buſineſs ſo important and ſo intereſting.—That the "Houſe were intitled to every information they could call for, and if neceſſary, oral evidence "ſhould be received at the Bar. That the Report of the Committee of Council was partial "and imcomplete, and that therefore the Houſe ought not to conſider the opinion of that "Committee as deciſive, *without fuller information.*

IT is certain that no official notice was given to the public, (thro' the medium of the London Gazette or otherwiſe) that the Iriſh buſineſs was in agitation before a Committee of Council and that the mercantile and ſea port towns were not made acquainted therewith, particularly thoſe of *Lynn* and *Yarmouth*, until the Committee of Council were up and their Report printed; and which was not received at Yarmouth until Friday laſt the 11th inſtant.

FOR the public information we have added an account of the Export of Corn, Flour and Malt, from *Great Yarmouth* to *Ireland* for the laſt *ſeven* years, which will enable all parties, intereſted in the ſaid Export, to judge of the propriety of the Committee of Council reſorting *ſolely* for their information to Meſſrs. *Scott* and *Taylor*, Corn-Factors, of London; and on a peruſal of their Letter they will probably infer further,—that it has been framed more with a view to forward a favourite ſcheme of theſe gentlemen, to regulate the exportation and importation of *Corn* and *Grain* from and to all the Out-Ports of the kingdom, by the ſtandard of prices at the Corn-Market of London, (for purpoſes ſufficiently obvious) than to the giving any *direct and preciſe information* upon thoſe arrangements in the Corn trade, now depending with IRELAND *only*, and for which *alone* they were applied to.

The Noblemen and Gentlemen in the Counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, are particularly cautioned to obſerve,—That unleſs Parliament ſhall admit more extenſive and material information than they at preſent appear to poſſeſs, before they come to a final determination on this important buſineſs; the very extenſive Trade carried on from theſe Counties to Ireland, will incur great danger of being totally loſt, and thereby the LANDED INTEREST AT LARGE throughout the Kingdom, ſuſtain irreparable injury.

By Deſire of the COMMITTEE,

EDMUND LACON, Chairman.

☞ The quantity of Malt and Barley exported from the Port of Yarmouth to Ireland, in the laſt ſeven years, (extracted from the Cuſtom-Houſe-Books) amounts to 171,500 Quarters, or on an average 24,500 Quarters annually.—The quantity of Wheat and Wheat-Flour, exported in like manner, in the laſt Year, from Michaelmas 1783, to Michaelmas 1784, amounted to 19,931 Quarters.